

Abstract of the Disclosure

A method for controlling a fuel cell system that has a high-pressure gas generating system so as to avoid mechanical damage to a fuel cell. In the event of a malfunction of a diaphragm of a reformer unit, the differential pressure between the side of the diaphragm of the reformer unit facing the anode side and the cathode side of the fuel cell module is held below a predefined value. In addition fuel cell systems are provided for holding the differential pressure may contain a pressure relief valve, which may be controlled by a sensor, a bursting disk, or a flow resistance, or another controllable valve on the low-pressure side upstream from the anode side of fuel cell unit.